

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE JULIAN C. DIXON,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, A lion of the House has fallen silent, with the passing of our esteemed colleague, JULIAN DIXON.

We mourn the death of this powerful, gentle, man, and salute his profound and long-lasting influence on our legislative chamber.

I offer my condolences and prayers to his wife Bettye and his son Carey, and wish them God's blessings in their time of mourning.

As a Latino member of Congress, I personally appreciate the example Congressman DIXON set in his distinguished career. He paved the way for a diverse Congress, a Congress that truly reflects the hopes and aspirations of our Nation. He embodied the principle that there is nothing we cannot achieve, if we work hard, persevere, and have faith. As Cesar Chavez said, "si se puede," yes we can.

It is, at times, a hard road to follow, to pursue district and national priorities, to navigate the corridors of the United States Congress, and remain true to one's roots, one's beginnings, but Congressman DIXON did it all. He was a legislator's legislator, serving on the Congressional Black Caucus, the Appropriations Committee, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, where he was the ranking member. He also served with achievement in the California State Assembly.

Born in Washington, D.C., Congressman DIXON moved west and honored our Nation by serving in its armed forces, and then continued the arc of his success, enrolling in undergraduate studies and law school.

In the Congress, he fought hard for his constituents in California, while never forgetting his native Washington, D.C. He was above all, a man of the people, a man who worked quietly and persistently to get things done.

I am saddened by his passing, but heartened that I had the privilege to serve with him in the Congress. He leaves a guiding light that will illuminate the hearts and minds of his colleagues, long after his passing.

I know he is in heaven, now, quietly at peace. And so I say to him, "goodbye," God bless you, we miss you, we hope to follow your example."

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SPEECH OF

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to join my colleagues in paying tribute to an accomplished legislator, a gen-

uine patriot, a true gentleman, and a valued friend. Representative JULIAN DIXON, of California, departed this world, but his legacy will endure for many years to come.

JULIAN DIXON's life was one of distinguished public service. Before entering the United States House of Representatives in 1979, he served six years in the California State Assembly. Throughout his congressional career, he has focused his energies on the needs of his Congressional District, Los Angeles County, and the State of California. He was a knowledgeable and effective advocate. He was not only an exemplary Representative of his constituents, but a leader who has served both his colleagues in the Congress and the American people with great distinction. He was an man of character and stature who earned our respect and left a record of hard work and accomplishment.

Representative DIXON was the fifth ranking member on the Appropriations Committee. He was a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense; the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary; and the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia. He was the Ranking Member on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

For nearly a decade, Representative DIXON served on the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. It was my pleasure to serve, as this Committee's Ranking Member, with him from 1983–1988. Representative DIXON served as the Chairman of the Committee from 1985–1991. His judicious approach, his gentlemanly demeanor, his steady and wise counsel, his careful attention to detail, and his strong hand helped the Committee navigate often rocky shoals. He was a thoughtful and articulate man who presented his views with eloquence in a logical and sensitive manner. He got along with both sides of the aisle. He worked with all people. He was gentle in his approach.

JULIAN DIXON was one of those whom I consider to be one of the real gentlemen of the Congress. He was a man of ideas and vision. I appreciate the work that he has done and his commitment and loyalty to America and the principles for which we stand.

Our Nation, the State of California, and his constituents in the 32nd Congressional District have lost a true statesman and a strong champion. I extend my profound sympathies and condolences to his wife, Bettye, and to his son, Cary, with the knowledge that God's grace will see them through this difficult period.

JULIAN, we are truly going to miss you deeply.

HONORING DETECTIVE DICK
RIDENOUR

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2000

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to recognize my good friend, Detective Dick Ridenour, on the occasion of his retirement from Modesto Police Department after 31 years in law enforcement.

Dick Ridenour is an exemplary law enforcement professional. His career is noted by some of the most serious criminal investiga-

tions conducted by the Modesto Police Department.

Some of the highlights started in early 1978, where Ridenour's first major homicide involved a double murder-for-hire. Ridenour's investigation led him to several states, interviewing multiple suspects and witnesses. During the lengthy investigation, he had threats against his life by organized crime figures and other suspects, when he uncovered an unrelated crime involving several public figures in Nevada.

A year later, Ridenour was first on scene to a robbery-homicide where a 17-year-old youth was killed. Ironically, the victim turned out to be Ridenour's own nephew, Michael Ridenour, who was shot and killed during a robbery at a baseball field. Although, Ridenour was removed as the primary homicide detective on this case, he never gave up and located the suspect who was eventually arrested and sentenced to prison for 45 years. When the suspect escaped from prison, after only serving a few months, Ridenour continued his unofficial mission to relocate and return him to prison. After seven years, Ridenour discovered the escaped prisoner's address leading to his re-arrest in Puerto Rico.

In 1981, Ridenour was the primary investigator of a triple homicide that was successfully prosecuted and the perpetrator was sentenced to life in prison. During Ridenour's final years, he was assigned to solve cold homicide cases where leads had dried up. Ridenour's exceptionally investigative skills helped solve several of those cases and the defendants are currently in prison for those murders.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to report, that despite being in the most dangerous of situations, Dick's professionalism and ability to remain cool under pressure allowed him to refrain from ever using deadly force.

Ridenour has received numerous honors for his work including being named Peace Officer of the Year in 1990. He served as president of Modesto Police Officer Association from 1979–1985 and has received several awards from local civic clubs.

It is my distinct honor to recognize the contributions of Detective Dick Ridenour to our community. He has left a distinguished legacy of unselfish service. I wish him well on his retirement and ask that my colleagues rise and join me in honoring him on the occasion of his retirement.

HONORING BEN ALEXANDER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, this coming January, the Colorado State Board of Education will lose a tremendous leader in Mr. Ben Alexander. Serving as a Member-at-Large since January, 1999, Ben has developed a reputation throughout Colorado for his work in the education reform movement.

Ben initially entered public service in the Colorado General Assembly. Elected as a state senator, he crafted meaningful education reform legislation as the chairman of the Education Committee. One particular bill involved increasing the per pupil expenditure for charter school students to more closely parallel that of